(Rs. in lakhs)

Year	Revenue	Expenditure
1999-2000	913.63	211.82
2000-2001	1644.49	393.65

New VRS by State Bank of India

*132. SHRI KARNENDU BHATTACHARJEE: Will the Minister of FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news-item captioned "SBI plans VRS to lay off 40% staff" which appeared in The Business Standard, dated the 26th May, 2002;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) by when the scheme is likely to put in place;

(d) the steps taken to ensure that such a huge reduction in the establishment in the bank doe's not lead to a decline in the customer services?

THE MINISTER OF FINANCE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS (SHRI JASWANT SINGH): (a) to (d) Yes, Sir. State Bank of India has reported that it has no plan to introduce another VRS in the near future. Therefore, the question of any reduction in customer services does not arise.

Export of agricultural products

*133. SHRI AIMADUDDIN AHMED KHAN (DURRU):

DR. AKHILESH DAS:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether any new strategy has been evolved to reduce export cost of agricultural products to provide direct assistance to farmers and make their products more competitive;

(b) if so, the details thereof and in what manner it marks an improvement over the earlier agri-export strategy; and

(c) the improvement in agri-exports registered during the last three months as compared to the corresponding period last year?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI RAJIV PRATAP RUDY): (a) to (c) The Government have initiated various measures to reduce export cost of agricultural products to make them more competitive in the international market. These, *inter alia,* include setting up of agri export zones to provide enhanced international market access and improved infrastructural facilities, better flow of credit, assistance for transport, handling and processing on export of selected agricultural commodities as also removal of export restrictions like requirement for registration, packaging, etc.

As per export statistics available from DGCI&S, Calcutta, agricultural exports (excluding marine products, tea, coffee, cotton and castor oil) were at Rs. 18,667 crores during the year 2001-02 (April-March) and at Rs. 16,773 crores during the eyar 2000-01, thereby showing an increase of Rs. 1894crore.

Appointment of Partners by IBP petrol pumps in Delhi

†*134. SHRI MUNAVVAR HASAN: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of dealers who got permissions for appointing partners at various petrol pumps in Delhi from IBP Company between 1 st January and 30th June, 2002;

(b) whether it is a fact that the said company has flouted rules while granting permission to appoint these partners;

(c) if so, whether Government would take action against guilty persons after conducting an Inquiry into this whole episode and cancel the partnerships deals; and

(d) the number of persons who had requested to cancel such partnership during the said period?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) IBP Co. Limited gave approval in principle for reconstitution in respect of one retail outlet only between 1 st January, 2002 and 30th June, 2002.

(c) No, sir.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

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